

HIGHLY QUALIFIED Definition & Continuing Learning Units Frequently Asked Questions

By what date are teachers required to meet the requirements of the NCLB highly qualified definition?

- If you teach core academic subjects in a program supported with Title I funds and you are a new teacher or new hire, you must be highly qualified upon initial employment. If you teach core academic subjects and you are not a new teacher, you must be highly qualified by the end of the 2007-2008 school year.

What are some of the ways in which a teacher can meet the highly qualified content-mastery requirements by 2007-2008?

- You can take and pass the PRAXIS exam(s) required for the core academic subject area(s) for which you are seeking to become highly qualified;
- You can complete requirements of new, streamlined add-on (endorsement) certification(s) in the area(s) for which you are seeking to become highly qualified;
- You can complete the 90 CLU requirements of the Louisiana HOUSSE option prior to the end of the 2007-2008 school year.

Can the CLUs that a teacher earns for meeting the Highly Qualified definition also count for relicensure CLUs?

- Yes, the CLUs earned for purposes of meeting the Highly Qualified definition can be applied toward the 150 CLUs relicensure requirement. However, the converse is not necessarily true - not all CLUs earned for purposes of relicensure would necessarily meet the content-specific nature of CLUs required for highly qualified.

Suppose a teacher is currently on an OFAT (the teacher is certified, but is teaching out-of-field at the request of the district). Can the courses that the teacher is taking toward certification in the field he/she is teaching be applied toward the teacher's CLU requirements to be highly qualified?

- A teacher on an OFAT will not meet the highly qualified definition for the entire time he/she is on the OFAT. The coursework that the teacher completes while on the OFAT will lead to certification in the area of assignment. Once fully certified in the area of assignment, the teacher will be eligible for options available through the highly qualified definition. This situation must be handled on a case-by-case basis.

If a teacher chooses to complete the 90 CLU requirements of the Louisiana HOUSSE option, what college coursework may be counted?

- Any college-level course in the core academic subject for which highly qualified status is being sought may be counted toward the HOUSSE requirements. A 3-hour, for-credit course is equivalent to 45 CLUs. Generally, pure pedagogy courses offered through a college of education are not counted. However, education courses that are specific to the core academic subject may qualify. Education classes in methods in the teaching assignment, special education courses that deal with differentiating instruction, courses in assessment, and reading/literacy courses count; all other education courses not directly related to the content of the teaching assignment do not count.

Continued →
On Back

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Does the state require all educators to earn CLUs?

- All educators are encouraged to continue their professional learning throughout their careers. At the present time, the only two groups of educators that are required to earn CLUs are (1) educators seeking the NCLB highly qualified status under Louisiana's HOUSSE option, and (2) educators with a Level 2 or Level 3 Professional License.

What face-to-face and online professional development opportunities are sponsored by the Louisiana Department of Education, and how many CLUs are awarded for each of them?

- The list below provides examples of some of the face-to-face and online professional development offerings of the department. The list is not all-inclusive; for additional information, visit www.louisianaschools.net.

Face-to-Face Professional Development

- Louisiana INTECH(56 CLUs)
- INTECH 2 Science or INTECH 2 Social Studies(28 CLUs)
- LaTAAP Assessor Training(15 CLUs)
- Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS) Training (5 CLUs)
- District Assistance Team (DAT) Training:
School Improvement(16 CLUs) Accountability(8 CLUs)
SAM(12 CLUs) Federal Programs(4 CLUs)
- Strategic Instructional Model (SIM) TrainingCLUs vary depending on SIM strategy
(Avg 5.5 CLUs per strategy/routine)
- Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling (LETRS)(5 CLUs)
- Positive Behavior Support Training(24 CLUs)

Online Professional Development

- Effective Instructional Technology: An Introduction(45 CLUs)
- Effective Instructional Technology: A Portfolio of Exemplars(45 CLUs)
- Topics for Algebra Leaders and Instructors(45 CLUs)
- Leading with Technology(45 CLUs)
- Bridging the Gap: Universal Design for Learning(23 CLUs)
- UDL: Technology Support for Math and the K-12 Classroom(23 CLUs)
- UDL: Technology Support for Reading and the K-12 Classroom(23 CLUs)

For more info

Call toll free **1-877-453-2721** - or -
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